

COMMUNITY Q&A



What is sovereignty?

Broadly speaking, sovereignty means a group of people with the authority to make decisions for themselves without interference from others.

As sovereign peoples, First Peoples have the right to define sovereignty for themselves. Sovereignty may mean different things to different people.

Western law has its own version of sovereignty and Indigenous expressions of sovereignty can co-exist alongside it.

TREATY & SOVEREIGNTY

How does the Assembly view sovereignty?

The Assembly believes that sovereignty was never ceded.

If sovereignty was never broken, then we don't need to ask for sovereignty in colonial systems because our sovereignty already exists. The colonisers never took it from us, and they never will.

The Assembly believes the best way to assert our sovereignty is through practice. Practical actions (like exercising our lore, law and decision-making powers) give sovereignty life. We believe entering into Treaty negotiations is a strong way of asserting and demonstrating our sovereignty.

Grounding the Assembly's work in culture, lore and law

The Assembly's Yurpa Committee strengthens the Assembly's cultural governance practices and philosophy. It makes sure sovereignty is part of how we work and our ways of knowing. We practise sovereignty through our relationships, connections, culture and by upholding our lore and law.



Sovereignty in the Treaty Negotiation Framework

Sovereignty is the bedrock of our approach to Treaty.

Within the Advancing the Treaty Process Act, the State of Victoria acknowledges that First Peoples never ceded sovereignty.

The Treaty Negotiation Framework is a key

document developed by the Assembly after years of yarning with Community and agreed with the State. It lays out the foundations for Treaty-making. The Treaty Negotiation Framework recognises that the inherent rights and sovereignty of First Peoples continue to be activated through Treaty-making.

**TOGETHER WE'LL
GET TREATY DONE**

If you've got ideas or feedback, the Elected Assembly Members and our engagement team are always up for a yarn, so get in touch!



FIRST PEOPLES'
ASSEMBLY OF
VICTORIA

